

# Patuxent Research Refuge - Fishing Regulations 2006

**Cash Lake Season: June 11 – October 14, 2006** (June-Aug.: 6:00AM-8:00PM; Sept.-Oct.: 7:00 AM – 6:30PM)

**North Tract Season: January 1 – December 31, 2006** (During operating hours; some exceptions apply)

**Fresh water fishing and boating laws of the State of Maryland apply except as further restricted in Refuge Regulations.**  
**Fishing is not allowed on Federal Holidays or other dates when the Refuge is closed.**

## Permits:

All anglers age 16 and older must have an annual Refuge Fishing Permit as well as a valid Maryland fishing license. Permittee receives two copies of permit – **top copy must be in permittee's possession while fishing; bottom copy must be displayed in vehicle windshield.** Permit covers permittee and one other licensed angler; or permittee and two youth 15 and younger. Permittee must be present for guests to fish.

**Fishing Areas:** Fishing is restricted to designated areas only.

**North Tract:** Permitted areas may vary each day and will be identified upon check in.

**Cash Lake:** Fishing is permitted from the pier and shorelines on both sides of pier to posted signs. Fishing is NOT permitted from floating boardwalks or the shore of the peninsula (or any darkened area on the map). Anglers must follow regulations on all posted signs.

**Species and Daily Creel limits:** State regulations apply and are further restricted by Refuge Fishing Regulations:

**Bluegill must be 6" or larger; bass are catch-and-release only; chain pickerel are limited to one (1) per day.**

*Catch-and-release fishing for all species is encouraged.*

**Fishing methods:** Hook, line, and tackle as permitted by Maryland law. *Barbless or circle hooks are encouraged.* Per Refuge Regulations, **earthworms are the only live bait allowed. Harvest of bait on the Refuge is prohibited.** Fishing lines must be attended at all times. Wading, for fishing purposes, is permitted **only** south of Bailey's Bridge in the Little Patuxent River.

## Prohibited Activities:

The following activities are prohibited on the Patuxent Research Refuge: Swimming, sunbathing, littering, camping, campfires, firearms, alcoholic beverages, picnicking, disturbance to or removal of vegetation or wildlife. In addition, all pets must be kept on a leash no longer than 10 feet, and are not allowed in the water. Public trails near Cash Lake may be hiked only until 5:30PM.

**Trash Policy: "Pack it in; Pack it out."** No trash cans are provided. **Help keep YOUR National Wildlife Refuge litter-free.**

**Reports:** Anglers are asked to help Refuge biologists collect fishing data. Report your catch on creel report forms available at the North Tract Contact Station, and at the Cash Lake creel data mailbox.

## Boats:

The use of boats for fishing is permitted **only** at Cash Lake (**NOT at North Tract**). State boating laws apply. Only canoes and small car-top boats 14' and under are permitted. Sailboats are not permitted. No gasoline motors are permitted. (*Electric motors of 4 HP or less are permitted.*) Trailers are prohibited (*except by individuals possessing a Refuge handicapped permit*).

## Parking:

Anglers should not block roadways or gates on the Refuge.

**At Cash Lake:** Parking for fishing is located at the Cash Lake entrance (Gate 8) off of Rt. 197 (*South of Powdermill Rd. Intersection – toward Bowie*);

Due to limited parking space, large vehicles are discouraged.

Note: Anglers may not park in the Visitor Center parking lot.

(It is too far from the fishing area; and the Visitor Center area closes before the Cash Lake area closes.)

**Accessibility:** The handicapped parking area, restrooms, pier, & boat launching ramp at Cash Lake are fully accessible. Lake Allen, New Marsh and south side of Bailey Bridge at North Tract are also accessible.

## Be aware of State Fish Consumption Advisory due to mercury.

See Maryland Freshwater Sportfishing Guide or [www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/regulations](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/fisheries/regulations).

**Groups:** Organized groups may request a group permit. The group leader must carry a copy of the permit and stay with the group at all times while fishing. All vehicles must display a copy of the permit in vehicle window.

